

Appl. No. : 09/989,833
Filed : November 19, 2001

REMARKS

By this amendment, Claims 23-32 and 34 remain pending and Claim 22 has been cancelled. In the July 8, 2005 Final Office Action, the Examiner allowed Claims 25 and 32, objected to Claims 33 and 34, and rejected Claims 22-24 and 26-31.

Applicants assert that the claims as previously pending are patentable over the cited art. However, in order to expedite the allowance of the present application, and without prejudice, Applicants have amended the claims, as indicated in above the section entitled "Amendments to the Claims." In particular, rejected Claim 22 has been cancelled. Claims 24, 26, and 27 have been amended to depend from allowed Claim 25, and so are likewise in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has indicated that objected to Claim 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. In response, Claim 33, which depended from Claim 28 has been cancelled, and Claim 28 has been amended to include all the elements of objected to Claim 33. There is no intervening claim. Therefore, amended Claim 28 is now in condition for allowance. Claims 29-31 and 33 depend from Claim 28, are likewise in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has indicated that objected to Claim 34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. In response, Claim 34 has been amended to include all the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, amended Claim 34 is now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that pending Claims 23-32 and 34 are in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 23-32 and 34.

Request for Telephone Interview

If there are any issues that can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney of record at (310) 407-3461 or at the number set forth below.


Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

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Respectfully submitted,

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